

mits herself as to these last, disparage her credit in proportion as they sully her dignity.

We therefore earnestly appeal to this house to prove itself the guardian of its own faith and true honor in refusing the violent action in which it is sought to involve the State by the adverse report.

If excessive charges have been made, let the aggrieved parties ascertain their rights, and thus receive their redress in a court of justice, by the ordinary judicial proceedings, to the test of which all corporate as well as individual petitioners may with the same case be brought; and all that need be done or ought to be done in the cases or issues here involved, may be effected by individual suits which will determine how far the company has correctly interpreted its privileges—let not errors of opinion or occasional irregularities, neither authorised nor permitted by corporate sanction, be suffered by the State to form the materials of destruction, and to lay in ruins a stupendous work, and vindictively seal the doom of a spirited and useful corporation; losing sight of, in process against President and Directors, the interests of the numerous individuals who are stockholders in this company, many of them orphans and unprotected females, citizens of the State, and as such entitled to your regard; for surely by becoming stockholders in a company, we would not infer that they had forfeited their allegiance, or weakened their claims for protection and justice, which the State is bound, by interest as well as honor, to extend to all.

In addition to all that has been urged already, we should ponder well what might be the effect of our legislation upon the two other sovereign States who are parties to the incorporation of this great improvement; one of which (Pennsylvania) has located within her territory some of Maryland's most gigantic and important works, the interests of which might be more or less affected by the precedent sought to be established by ourselves in the course of legislation recommended and proposed by the report of the majority.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH F. SHAW,  
JAS. L. RIDGELY.